

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

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SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER RUMOR REVIEWS ITALIAN FOREIGN POLICY

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/SUMMARY/. IN A WIDE-RANGING ADDRESS ON JANUARY 23 FOREIGN

MINISTER RUMOR RE-AFFIRMED THAT THE FUNDAMENTS OF ITALIAN FOREIGN POLICY REST ON ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY, COLLABORATION IN EUROPE AND CLOSE-KNIT TIES WITH THE UNITED STATES.
END SUMMARY.

1. IN HIS MAIDEN SPEECH AS FOREIGN MINISTER, ON JANUARY 23 TO THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES' FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, MARIANO RUMOR UNDERTOOK A WIDE-RANGING REVIEW OF ITALIAN FOREIGN POLICY, ITS FUNDAMENTALS AND ITS OPERATIVE ASPECTS. ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL ASPECTS ARE REVIEWED BY SEPTTEL. POLITICAL HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW BELOW.

2. EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. RUMOR LAID DOWN AS "OUR BASIC POLITICAL CHOICE" THE "CONSTRUCTION OF EUROPE IN THE FRAMEWORK OF FRIENDLY RELATIONS AND COLLABORATION WITH THE UNITED STATES." THOSE RELATIONSHIPS ARE "THE INDISPENSABLE POINT OF REFERENCE FOR OVERCOMING THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IN A SETTING OF STABILITY AND DEMOCRATIC PROGRESS." THE EC MUST ACTIVELY COOPERATE WITH OTHER MAJOR INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES, AND "IN THE FIRST INSTANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES." "THE DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN IDENTITY.....IS FULLY COMPATIBLE AND COHERENT WITH OUR POLICY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES."

3. EUROPE. RUMOR REVIEWED WITH EVIDENT SATISFACTION ITALY'S ROLE IN, AND CONTRIBUTION TO EUROPE, POINTING TO PROGRESS IN REGARD TO THE EC'S INSTITUTIONS AND TO GROWING POLITICAL COORDINATION.

4. NATO, DISARMAMENT, AND DETENTE. THE RELATIONSHIP WITH EUROPE AND THE US IS A "FUNDAMENTAL CHOICE BASED ON A COMMON CONCEPTION OF DEMOCRATIC VALUES AND OF PLURALISM IN A MODERN WORLD, (A CONCEPT WHICH) TODAY AS IN THE PAST REMAINS THE SUPPORT OF A SYSTEM OF ECONOMIC WELL BEING AND OF MAINTAINING THE WORLD'S EQUILIBRIUM, OF WHICH THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE IS THE ESSENTIAL COMPONENT." RUMOR NOTED THAT ITALY IS PLAYING A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE VARIOUS CONFERENCES IN PRSUIT OF FURTHER DETENTE, FINDING THAT SOME PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT DETENTE TODAY IS AN IRREVERSIBLE TREND, AND NOTED THAT EVEN THE RECENT
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US/USSR CONTRETEMPS OVER THE TRADE BILL HAD BEEN HANDLED WITH UTMOST CAUTION BY BOTH SIDES, INDICATING THEIR SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY. RUMOR'S AFFIRMATION THAT ITALY INTENDS TO RATIFY THE NPT SOON WAS REPORTED BY SEPTTEL.

5. MIDDLE EAST. THE GOI SUPPORTS THE KISSINGER STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO SOLUTION OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI PROBLEM, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF RESOLUTION 242. "IF PEACE REQUIRES THAT

ISRAEL RETIRE FROM ALL THE TERRITORY OCCUPIED AFTER JUNE 4, 1967, BY VIRTUE OF THE INADMISSABILITY OF TERRITORIAL ACQUISITION BY FORCE, THIS ALSO REQUIRES THE ACCEPTANCE ON THE ARAB SIDE OF ISRAEL WHOSE RIGHT TO EXISTENCE AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY CANNOT BE BROUGHT UNDER DISCUSSION." RUMOR NOTED PRESIDENT LEONE'S RECENT WARM RECEPTION IN IRAN AND GROWING COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THAT COUNTRY. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT THE POSTPONED STATE VISIT TO SAUDIA ARABIA IS AGAIN BEING DISCUSSED.

6. EASTERN EUROPE. RUMOR WELCOMED THE CONTINUED EXPANSION OF BILATERAL COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL RELATIONS WITH THE USSR AND NOTED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF REGULAR POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. CLEARLY REFERRING TO THE LONG POSTPONED BREZHNEV VISIT, RUMOR MENTIONED THE EXISTENCE OF PENDING INVITATIONS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VISITS AT A HIGH LEVEL. THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALSO EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH POLAND, BULGARIA, EAST GERMANY, HUNGARY AND ROMANIA. BY OMITTING CZECHOSLOVAKIA FROM THE LIST, RUMOR APPEARED TO SIGNAL THAT THE FREEZE EXISTING IN BILATERAL RELATIONS SINCE 1968 WILL CONTINUE.

7. NEIGHBORS. WITH AUSTRIA, ITALY IS "RESOLVING RESIDUAL QUESTIONS IN A CLIMATE OF AMITY AND COOPERATION AND IN A PERSPECTIVE OF PROGRESS AND MUTUAL ADVANTAGE." CONCERNING YUGOSLAVIA, RUMOR EXPRESSED ITALIAN INTEREST IN ITS "INDEPENDENCE, INTEGRITY AND DEVELOPMENT" AND ADDED THAT THE GOI IS GIVING "NEW IMPULSES" TO THE RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BOTH IN THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL FIELDS.

8. ASIA. THE FONMIN NOTED THE TENDENCY TO TURN ONCE AGAIN TO FORCE FOR THE DRASTIC RESOLUTION OF PENDING PROBLEMS.
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HE URGED THE FULL ACTIVATION OF THE PARIS ACCORDS IN THE SPIRIT OF WHICH ITALY INTENDS TO MAINTAIN NORMAL RELATIONS WITH BOTH VIETNAMESE STATES. "THE OPENING OF OUR EMBASSY IN HANOI, WHICH HAS BEEN DELAYED DUE TO DIFFICULTIES BEYOND OUR CONTROL, WILL SOON BE ACCOMPLISHED."

9. FULL TEXT FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM.VOLPE

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